



# Marine Wing Support Group - 37

December 2009

## CO's Corner



## Colonel Ottignon

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Let me be one of the first to wish all Marines, Sailors, family and friends of Marine Wing Support Group 37 a happy holiday and New Year. Let us all take a moment to be thankful for the many blessings we share to include this great nation we call home. This time of year always conjures up memories of holiday's past, the innocence of youth and the spiritual significance of the holiday. Wherever we find ourselves this season, let us remember the true meaning of the holidays and share good cheer with all.

If there was a bumper sticker that could sum up the fall it would be "there is no rest for the weary." The pace in which we live our lives and perform our duty at times seems like a blur. I am mindful

that each and everyone, from the individual Marine to the family of a Sailor, is sacrificing much so that we as a collective team can answer the call asked only of its warriors by a grateful nation. In September, MWSS-372 took their place in Afghanistan and we welcomed home MWSS-371 from the same theater. With a heavy heart, I would like to recognize the sacrifice of the Taylor family from Duluth, Minnesota. Staff Sergeant Aaron Taylor fell mortally wounded during a combat engagement on 9 October 2009. Staff Sergeant Taylor was an Explosive Ordnance Technician with MWSS-372 and had just arrived to the combat theater. Please take a moment and continue to keep the Taylor's in your thoughts and prayers this season. We will never forget. As I told MWSS-371, their contributions in establishing a Marine Corps presence in Hellman Province are at the heart of our expeditionary nature and have allowed the Marine Corps to step up its

counter-insurgency operations.

As I visit with the squadrons and the Marines and Sailors of this headquarters, I remain in awe of all that you do and am thankful to be counted among you in the ranks. This truly is a remarkable team who has taken the challenge to be counted among the best. This spring we will refocus our efforts; it will require the same pace we have run this fall. We will support the transition of headquarters in Afghanistan and ready MWSS-373 for its deployment. No doubt that it will take the collective to man, equip and train them for their mission. I ask each of you to bear the load so that it may be shared equally as we tend to our nation's business.

Again, on behalf of my family to yours, a very Merry Christmas and happy holiday season to each and all.

Best wishes and Semper Fidelis.



## SgtMaj Sound-Off

It has been a busy past several months across the Group. MWSS-371 returned from their deployment to Afghanistan and has been settling back in to Yuma. MWSS-372 departed for Afghanistan and has picked up where MWSS-371 left off. MWSS-373 completed the movement and expansion of a runway in Bridgeport and MWSS-374 completed WTI in Yuma as well as its constant requirements for the SELF. Although a lot has been accomplished, 2010 will be just as busy with the main focus

being MWSS-373 gearing up to deploy to Afghanistan late in the year.

The holiday season is a great time to kick back and look at all that each of you have accomplished as a unit, family and individual. Each year, we all have our own ups and downs and hopefully next year will have many more ups than downs. As the holidays come I hope that each of you have the time to spend with family and friends. Even if it is just a simple phone call or a card,

remember those that matter most to you and have a positive effect on your life.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Semper Fi,

SgtMaj William Thurber



## Contact Information

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**FR0: 858-577-7209**

**Chaplain: 858-577-7204**

**Base Operator:**  
**858- 577-1011**

*“A great deal of work went into making the ball a truly memorable evening!”*

## FAMILY READINESS OFFICER



Happy Holidays to all of our Marines, Sailors and Family Members! During this time of year, many of us find ourselves reflecting on the course of the years events. Since our last newsletter, our service members and their families graciously volunteered their time at the Miramar Air Show—helping to serve thousands during the three day event. Marines nationwide, across the nation and right here in Southern California, celebrated the 234th Marine Corps Birthday on November 10th. MWSSG-37 joined MWSS 372 and MWSS 373 to celebrate our warriors at the Pala Casino. The camaraderie evident in Afghanistan, fighting for our freedoms. This Thanksgiving we were blessed by Marine Corps Wives Club, a non-profit organization housed right here in San Diego. Helen made it possible for our Marines and those base wide to receive delicious holiday staples. Congratulations to Cpl Crain will be responsible for keeping the event available, just for them! From Las Vegas to Disney World, plenty to do outside the gates or at their home away from home. screen televisions, games, pool tables, ping pong and more. This year, one of their bigger celebrations; the SMP Halloween Party. It was the coldest, windiest day in San Diego...so of course, the Marines allowing me to assist! From farewells to parties, yet finds time to celebrate, support and motivate our warriors. Memories in the upcoming year. May you all have a great year come...

Kelly A. Jones



234th Marine Corps Birthday Ball



MWSSG-37 Family Members volunteer at 2009 MCAS Miramar Air Show

## FAMILY READINESS ADVISOR



First, THANK YOU to MWSS-373 for hosting an outstanding Marine Corps Ball on November 10th @ the Pala Casino. A great deal of work went into making the ball a truly memorable evening!

As the holidays approach, we hope you have a chance to spend time with friends and family and reflect on all you're thankful for in the past year. We hope you have a wonderful holiday season and look forward to 2010!

Best wishes and season's greetings

Diana Ottignon



## Chap's Chat

In this issue I want to share a few thoughts about divorce, priorities and religious faith in marriage.

### 5. Divorce

Our society is so disposable that some people declare marriage over because their spouse hogs the remote control. People aren't willing to work at healing. Marriage is like a child. It needs to be nurtured, played with. If it gets sick, it takes time, effort, and often money to restore its health. But sometimes marriages die, and when that happens, I believe divorce is the most loving thing to do. Divorce is the funeral for a dead marriage. Funerals don't kill people and divorce doesn't kill a marriage. If it comes to divorce, then the marriage was dead long before. The words "until we are parted by death" in the marriage service can refer not only to the two parties, but to the marriage itself.

### 6. Priorities in Marriage.

I think on of the hardest thing for a marriage is making the other a priority in the midst of other demands on our time. As a parish priest, I was accountable to hundreds of people. Sometimes my wife was the last person on the list and I talked with her only after I'd talked with all the others, when I didn't have much energy left. For military marriages, the challenges of long working

## Marriage Readiness (Part 2)

hours, deployments make it especially hard for couples to keep each other in the center of their lives.

### 7. Religious Faith and Marriage

God calls people into self-giving relationships. This is at the heart of most of the great religions. Marriage is such a relationship. Having a lively relationship with God helps a married couple keep focused on self-giving. Church involvement can do that, but people who merely say they believe in God have the same divorce rate as those who don't. It's for those who regularly pray with and for each other that the divorce rate drops dramatically. And I don't mean the "God please help my husband/wife get their head screwed on right" kind of prayer. That attitude will allow anger and frustration to metastasize and kill a marriage

### 8. Why Marriage is Hard

Let's be honest, marriage is difficult. For most people, it is the hardest thing you will ever do in life. With the civilian divorce rate at 50% and the military divorce rate for first-term Marines at 75% we need to find ways to address this serious crisis and help young people delay marriage. Too often couples come to see me when it is too late, the symptoms and the problems have been there too long.

Financial mismanagement and communication difficulties cause enormous stress to couples. But more often than not, people just never take the time to really know a person before they marry them. The most common mistake couples make is assuming that how a person acts now is how he or she will act over the course of a long-term committed relationship.

At MWSG-37 we are working on a bold new initiative to help all who are contemplating marriage and all our married Marines and families. Inspired by the Family Readiness model of taking care of families, the MWSG-37 Chaplain has created a Marriage Readiness Program that will coordinate existing premarital education programs and the marriage enrichment programs that already exist both within the military and in the civilian world. You will be hearing more about that in Part 3 of this series.

*For individual and couple counseling in absolute confidentiality, LCDR(sel) Chaplain Frank Munoz, can be reached at 858-577-7204*



*"Let's be honest, marriage is difficult. For most people, it is the hardest thing you will ever do in life."*



## Congratulations to the new re- enlistee's:



Cpl Romero, S-4



Sgt Lagud, S-6



Sgt Hartman, S-4



Cpl Lopez, S-4



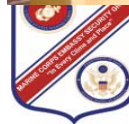
## Career Planner's Corner

### IMPORTANT DATES:

13 & 14 Jan 2010



The  
Manpower Management  
Roadshow Visit is com  
Marine Corps



The HQMC Recruiter So coming to MCAS Miramar

Happy Holidays to all,

SSgt Shelton, Syndy D  
Career Retention Specialist

MWSG 37 SNCOIC

MCAS Miramar

"Helping Marines climb the ladder to success"

## Education



Go to: <http://www.nmcrcs.org/spec-prgm.html>

USS TENNESSEE (SSBN 734) Scholarship Fund (TENNESSEE), the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society provides need based financial assistance in the form of a grant for the undergraduate college education of dependent children of active duty Navy personnel who are current or former members of the USS TENNESSEE. Application deadline NLT 1 March 2010.

Go to: <http://www.nmcrcs.org/mcalinden.pdf>

Joseph A. McAlinden Divers Scholarship is offered specifically to Navy and Marine Corps Divers, whether active duty or retired, and their eligible family members. This scholarship provides financial assistance for full-time undergraduate and graduate students, who must be participating in one of the following areas of study: Oceanography, Ocean Agriculture, or Aquaculture. There is no deadline for this Program, you may apply at any time.

Go to: <http://www.nmcrcs.org/travers.html>  
The Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society's (NMCRC) Vice Admiral E. P. Travers Loan Program (Travers Program) provides need based financial assistance for full-time undergraduate students.

For: Children of Active Duty Sailors and Marines (including Reservists while on active duty over 90 days), Children of Retired Sailors and Marines, and Spouses of Active Duty Sailors and Marines residing within the 50 United States. Application deadline NLT 1 March 2010.

Go to: <http://www.nmcrcs.org/goldstar.html>

NMCRC Gold Star Scholarship Program. For the children and unremarried spouses of deceased service members

Application due NLT 1 March 2010

-- for unremarried spouses  
-- application NLT Two months prior to the start of school.

Go to: <http://www.nmcrcs.org/stap.html>

Spouse Tuition Aid Program (STAP) -- available to spouses residing with their active duty service member sponsor, while stationed outside the fifty United States. Contact local NMCRC for info and deadlines.

Go to: <http://www.nmcrcs.org/boorda.html>  
Admiral Mike Boorda Loan Program -- offers loans ranging from \$500 up to \$3,000 an academic year, to eligible active duty Sailors and Marines accepted to the following programs:

Marine Enlisted Commissioning Education Program (MECEP), Medical Enlisted Commissioning Program (MECP), or Meritorious Commissioning Program (MCP). Application NLT 1 May 2010.

Go to: <http://www.nmcrcs.org/sponsors-scholarship.pdf>

Society of Sponsors of the United States Navy Centennial Scholarship Program.

The Centennial Scholarship is offered to Iraq-Afghanistan combat wounded veterans who have an Associate Degree or equivalent credits and are pursuing a Bachelor's Degree or university/college courses beyond a Bachelor's Degree, leading to teacher licensure. There is no deadline for this program, you may apply at any time.



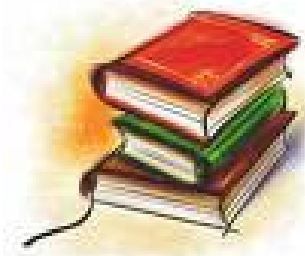
## Did you know???

You can go to any community college in the State of California for FREE!

For eligible California residents, the Board of Governors (BOG) Fee Waiver permits enrollment fees to be waived. (Assistance for the purchase of books and supplies must be applied for separately.)

Many California Community Colleges offer online BOG Fee Waiver applications through CCCApply. When you use these online applications, the data you've entered in CCCApply will be transferred automatically, making your application much easier and faster.

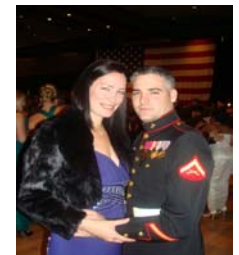
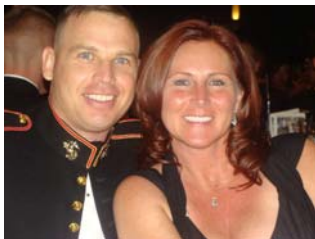
There are multiple waivers available – visit your local campus OR jump right in by visiting [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov)



# Marine Wing Support Group - 37

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## A LOOK BACK AT 2009





Marine Wing Support Group 37

Commercial: (858) 577-7228  
DSN: 267-7228

[www.3maw.usmc.mil/mwsg37/default.asp](http://www.3maw.usmc.mil/mwsg37/default.asp)

## BOB HOPE THEATER

Fri. Dec 18:  
The Men Who Stare at Goats (R) 6:30 p.m.  
Paranormal Activity (R) 9:00 p.m.

Sat. Dec 19:

Swap Meet 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Disney's A Christmas Carol (Not in 3-D) (PG) 6:30 p.m.

\*Cirque Du Freak: The Vampire's Assistant (PG-13) 9:00 p.m.

Sun. Dec 20:

\*Astro Boy (PG) 1:00 p.m.

FREE Advance Screening: Sherlock Holmes (PG-13) 6:30 p.m.

Tues, Dec 22:

Lincoln Housing Christmas

FREE Admission - Unaccompanied Minors (PG) 6:30 p.m.

Wed. Dec 23:

2012 (PG-13) 6:30 p.m.

Thurs. Dec 24:

Disney's A Christmas Carol (Not in 3-D) (PG) 2:00 p.m.

Planet 51 (Not in 3-D) (PG) 6:30 p.m.

\*Indicates Last Showing



## MCAS MIRAMAR CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Fri, Dec 18	8-Ball Pool Tournament for Enlisted Active Duty/The Great Escape
Sat, Dec 19	*Shopping Trip to Fashion Valley Mall,/ The Great Escape
	-9-Ball Pool Tournament for Enlisted Active Duty,/The Great Escape
Sun, Dec 20	-NFL Sunday Ticket, Opens at 9 a.m., Legends Sports Grill, Food and Drink Specials
Dec 21 - Jan 15	*Winter Camp 2009 Begins/ Youth & Teen Center
Mon, Dec 21	-Alcoholics Anonymous and Al-Anon Meetings/ Counseling Center
Tues, Dec 22	-QOL Golf: Two Hours After Twilight Starts FREE Golf for Miramar Active Duty
	*Adecco Staffing Agency Visit, 9 a.m. -12 p.m., Career Resource Center
	-Marine Teen Training, 6:30 pm, Miramar Sports Complex
Wed, Dec 23	-FREE Golf Clinic for Active Duty, 11:45 a.m. - 1 p.m., Golf Course
Fri, Dec 25	-MERRY CHRISTMAS: The Great Escape is Open 9:30 a.m. - 1 a.m. Today!!

